

## **Restoration of a Pastor**

Compiled by Rev. David J. Bauer & Rev. Joas Gueros

**BASIS:** The Bible states in Matthew 18:15 that the first and foremost objective of discipline is “winning” or “restoring” the offending brother. In 2 Corinthians 2:15 there is a command to restore the penitent brother (from a moral fall specifically). The goal of discipline is not exclusion, but restoration. With a moral fall of a person on a ministry team this is difficult because the shame is not easily wiped away (see Proverbs 6:32-33).

### **GUIDELINES:**

I. You will NOT do ministry for at least one year, of any kind, with one exception: you can win souls as the Lord leads and gives opportunity at work or in your recreational contacts. Ministry will take place slowly after that, with gradually larger amounts of responsibility given by your church elders and pastor over the course of the following year (or elder determined period). You will once again be building your reputation and trust to a ministry level. This will take time. This may not apply entirely to your spouse, who may be free to do ministry at the discretion of the leadership of the church where you will be attending.

II. Find a LOCAL CHURCH and a pastor you can trust and work with. (It is not recommended that you attend the church you were formerly the pastor in.) Initially you and your wife will counsel with the pastor, and will need to be transparent with him as to what has taken place. You will need to demonstrate to him your willingness to be restored to where you need to be in your Christian life, as well as to future ministry, and that you have a willingness to comply with the recommended process.

The husband (or wife) will need to meet alone with the Elder/Pastor (or designated counselor) you agree to work with. You need to furnish him some information as to the circumstances which have led up to the situation of moral failure, how involved it has been, not with graphic details, but some of the details which have kept you involved and from disclosing the situation. The counselor will need to know the truth surrounding the circumstances in order to present a balanced program of counseling.

### **III. THE RESTORATION PERIOD**

The course of action would involve the following steps:

1. Bible Studies – Husband and wife will read the text together, and write down a simple explanation and review of the text. Specific passages for study will be selected by the counselor.

Also the focus may be on certain biblical characters in order to understand God's forgiveness. Suggested examples: David, Moses, Sampson, Jonah, Peter, etc.

2. Weekly Meetings with the Counselor – (about an hour) These are to be used in order to help maintain our focus in the correct understanding of the Scripture lessons in the sections of God's word assigned.

3. Once a Month – Meet with husband and wife together – (about an hour) The purpose will be to speak about their spiritual life, family relationships, the children's reaction to changes in their lives.

4. The reading of Selected Books – Several books, booklets or articles will be selected (periodically) in order to provide husband and wife with some scholarly biblical advice that will contribute to their spiritual growth and renewal. The counseling pastor is at liberty to guide this selection.

5. Activities –

a. Work – Be employed in secular labor, but no more than six days. Physical labor can also be done on a voluntary basis around the church premises which the family has chosen to be their home, as long as it does not put their married relationship in jeopardy.

b. Make good use of your time as a family.

c. Engage in recreational activities together that will be wholesome, fun and will build you both up physically, mentally and emotionally.

d. On Sundays go to church together. Get under the teaching of the church as much as you can. Wednesday Prayer Meeting, weekly Bible study, etc. providing it does not fatigue you unnecessarily.

e. Use vacation time to actually take a vacation with your wife (and possibly the children if they so desire). Getting away periodically is a healing remedy.

#### IV. POST RESTORATION:

1. Steps will need to be taken to prevent future incidents and damage to your reputation.

a. As you do ministry in the future such as teaching, preaching, visiting, counseling, etc. you must NEVER go alone. You must take your wife or another brother to be your companion.

- b. NEVER visit any female member of the church or of your staff ALONE. Take a member of the church your son or daughter or wife along.
- c. AVOID all physical contact with ladies, such as patting on the shoulder, kissing on the cheek, and/or with children not your own. Look all women other than your wife in the eye (rather than up and down).
- d. While working in your office, always leave the door open.
- e. You will have an accountability plan in effect for any use of the internet.
- f. DO NOT give rides to anyone in your automobile when alone. (Getting your reputation back is a sacred beautiful thing, and of priceless value. Protect it with all the strength you have.) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

## 2. Spiritual safeguards.

You must find time to read your Bibles together.  
Prayer life should always take priorities over other activities.  
Continually ask for God's protection against thoughts that might hinder your work.  
"Put on the whole armor of God..." Ephes. 6  
Keep your mind focused on the work God has called you to do.  
Allow spiritual time with your children/grandchildren.

## 3. Accountability to Bible Related Ministries.

When Pastor and his wife arrive at a new destination they should call BRM to report and give an update. There will be no one else other than the counseling pastor/elder and BRM that this family shall give an answer to. All further report, recommendation and references shall be addressed through either of these persons, for further consideration.



### ***Bible Related Ministries***

P.O. Box 272 Hinsdale, Illinois 60522-0272  
708-579-3800 or 708-579-3801 – Fax: 708-579-3844

[www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org](http://www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org)

[djbauer101@gmail.com](mailto:djbauer101@gmail.com)